

Hilda J. Barbour Elem. School

**A Fully Accredited School**

E-mail

klenz@wcps.k12.va.us

**News from Mrs. Lenz’s**

**Kindergarten Class**

**September 4, 2009**

Congratulations! We have made it through the first and the toughest full week of school! We have had a busy week in our classroom. We began the week by reviewing safety rules and expectations. The students helped Mrs. Wilson and me act out how to be safe and respectful on the bus. We have completed several activities designed to help us get to know each other. We sorted ourselves in a variety of ways—by gender, clothing choice, favorite color, favorite activity, etc. The students wrote a story about something fun they did this summer. This writing piece is our baseline sample.

We have practiced a variety of skills within a teddy bear theme. We had a Teddy Bear Tea Party on Thursday, and a teddy bear sleepover on Thursday night. Have you ever wondered what teddy bears do when people aren’t around? Well, we found out on Friday morning. The animals played with the house toys, built with blocks, listened to music, painted, looked at books and magazines, worked a puzzle, and played on the computer. One teddy curled up in a blanket and went to sleep, and the monkey was swinging from the ceiling! The students had lots of fun discovering what their animals had been up to in the night, and we made a class book about the teddy bear sleepover. In addition to the tea party and sleepover, the students shared something special about their teddy or animal and wrote a story in their journals. The students

Made a “Bear-y Beginning of Kindergarten” book. We examined teddy bears for similarities and differences, and then made a flip poster of teddies that are the same and teddies that are different.

In math this week, the students learned about some of the math materials we will be using in our classroom throughout the year. These manipulative materials are in tubs and we use them to practice math skills like sorting, patterning, counting, comparisons, shapes and more. We call this practice time “tubbing” time. The students also practiced sorting their animals by type of animal, color and size.

Nicholas Waskiewicz celebrated his fifth birthday on September 1st. Happy birthday, Nicholas!

The very beginning of kindergarten is an exciting time. There are so many new things going on in our students’ lives and many adjustments to make. We are making progress. The students understand that rules are enforced so that no one gets hurt. That’s the easy part. The fact that rules are also enforced so that everyone can learn is a bit harder to grasp. We are working with all of the students on learning when to talk, when to listen, how to be an active listener, how to deal with distractions, how to share and take turns, how to respect each others’ personal space and belongings and how to use our words to resolve conflicts. These are ber



On

On

school on Tuesday.

* Please plan to join our PTO, and mark your calendar to attend the first PTO meeting on Thursday, September 17th at 7:00.
* There will be an early dismissal on September 16th. The students will be dismissed at 1:00 that day.
* There seems to be some confusion regarding snack time. In our class, we ask each family to donate one snack item for the entire class at the beginning of each month. We keep the snack donations in our cupboards and select a different snack for the class each day. We were thinking that it may be easier to remember once a month, than trying to remember to send in individual snacks everyday. We sent home a sheet of healthy snack choices for your referral earlier in the week. Thanks to all those who have sent in a snack donation for September!
* On Tuesday, Mrs. Wilson sent home a Scholastic Book Order form with instructions for placing your order online. You still have the option of filling in the order form and returning it to school with a check made out to Scholastic Books. Mrs. Wilson will check the online orders and combine them with the paper orders on the due date that was written on the form.

are very important life skills which we will continue to model, guide and refine as the year progresses. We are struggling a bit with the noise factor in our class. Kindergarten kids are verbally impulsive—if it comes into their minds, it comes right out of their mouths! ☺ The students are learning to listen carefully and follow the directions of all adults. Please take a few moments with your child over the weekend to stress the importance of listening and following directions. Mrs. Wilson and I appreciate your support!

Although we teach every letter everyday in kindergarten, we will match a letter of the alphabet with whatever science or social studies theme we are learning about to help make the letter/sound association and to introduce and practice the cursive formation of the lower case letter. Next week, we will begin an All About Me social studies theme, so our letter of the week will be M. We are planning many activities to explore and celebrate our similarities and our differences—all the things that make each person unique and special. Your child’s first homework assignment will be coming home on Tuesday. Our color of the week will be red. Please plan to wear red as much as possible next week, especially on Friday, September 11th. Friday will be RED DAY in kindergarten. The students will work with circles and will learn several new vocabulary words—*clockwise, counterclockwise, top, and middle, bottom, horizontal* and *curved.*

* There will be no school on Monday, September 7th. Schools will be closed in observance of Labor Day.
* Please return the HJB folder to

[Type a quote from the document or the summary of an